

DAGGER DETAILS



*Sharpen the edge, that's what we do.
It's all in line with the brigade patch
that we have, repetitive training, and
gaining knowledge.*

Col. Raymond Lamb



HOLIDAY EDITION



The Public Affairs Section would like to thank all of the Soldiers, Families and Employers that have supported the Brigade during this past year. In the upcoming months there will be changes to the format of the Dagger Details to better serve the brigade.

Happy Holidays and may you all have a safe and wonderful New Year

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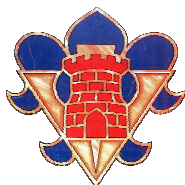
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5th Armored Brigade Unfurls New Colors

By Staff Sgt Lisa Litchfield , 5th Armored Brigade Public Affairs

The transformation began in Sept. at Fort Riley, Kan., as the 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support), donned the First Army patch and it ended here on Dec. 12, as they cased their unit colors and unfurled the flag of the 5th Armored Brigade.

2nd Bde., 91st Div. (TS) is one of the 16 brigades recently realigned under Division West and First Army. As part of that realignment, the brigade has returned to its separate combat arms history under Division West. Only the name of the unit changes, not the mission according to Col. Raymond Lamb, commander of the newly reactivated 5th Armored Brigade. "Our mission remains the same as before the designation. It just supports the realignment of First Army," he said.

Lamb is proud of the legacy that his brigade left with the 91st Division. "2nd Brigade did its lions share, both at Bliss, Riley, and here at Carson. We went wherever, whenever to accomplish the training mission to get the soldiers trained, ready to go to war," he said.



The 5th Armored Brigade will continue their long-standing tradition of providing tough, realistic, hands-on, theater immersion training to Soldiers preparing to deploy. One of the programs that the brigade will take advantage of for that training is the Operation Warrior Training Program, said Lamb

OWTs are Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who have recently returned from combat and offer their experience and skills as trainers in the brigades.

"Relevancy of training for that theater has a latency of about 6 months. Anything more than 6 months you've lost touch with how the nature of the fight is changing. OWTs' recent experience and understanding of how the theater is adjusting to the fight that's going on is absolutely critical to us being relevant to the training audiences we're training," Lamb explained.

Although the mission remains business as usual, Lamb knows that the unit history change will affect his Soldiers. "Leaving those memories behind will be something that impacts the Soldiers of the Brigade. It's also exciting though, the new oncoming of this brigade and the whole reshaping of First Army. It gives us all a fresh new start. It's a mental shift that our forces have gone through. I think the changing of our patch, our designation is all part of that transformation process that we're in now," he said.

As part of that transformation, Lamb is particularly excited about the new patch in the center of the Brigade flag. "I love the patch. In the center of the patch it has the torch of education and enlightenment, the first chevron representing the 5th Armored Brigade and the repetition of that chevron in the center of it talking to the repetitive nature of training. So when you put the patch all together, knowledge gained through repetition accomplished by the 5th Armored Brigade, I think that's really great and meets what we're trying to get after when we go out to train these forces," he explained.

Along with excellence in training, Lamb also plans on keeping the brigade nickname as "Dagger" Brigade and the charge as "Sharpen the Edge". According Lamb, it is a particularly fitting motto as they continue to train Soldiers under Division West and First Army.

"Sharpen the edge, that's what we do. It's all in line with the brigade patch that we have, repetitive training, and gaining knowledge. That is also in line with our old motto and we'll retain that as part of our legacy and our historical links to what we have just moved from," Lamb explained.

Brigadier General Anne Macdonald, deputy commander of Division West, watches as Colonel Raymond Lamb and Command Sergeant Major Ricky Buchanan case the 2nd Brigade, 91st Division colors.



Sergeant First Class David Gaa commanded the brigade color guard who wore period uniforms to celebrate the proud history of the brigade and their successful campaign accomplishments.

Colonel Raymond Lamb and Command Sergeant Major Ricky Buchanan unfurl the new 5th Armored Brigade colors during the holiday ball.





SPC Nathan Bourdlaies and his wife Shelly pause for a picture during the ball festivities.

Lori Frieden, wife of Captain Danny Frieden, explains HHC's "Big A" entry into the table centerpiece contest to Brigadier General Macdonald and Colonel Lamb.



The Avilas made the ball a family affair. Pictured here are Master Sergeant Richard Avila, his wife Donna, their daughter Kristen Irwin and her boyfriend Greg Long.



The “Redball Express”, Logistic Support Battalion (LSBN) use their winning table centerpiece to show their diversity of talent. Everything from Combat Lifesaving to Vehicle maintenance is represented in this sculpture of holiday cheer.

The table of honor was set up and reserved to show our respect for our fallen comrades who grace us with their symbolic presence although not their physical one.



As the youngest officer in the Brigade, 2LT Joseph Phillips had the honor of testing the first glass of grog to ensure it fit for consumption. .



Colonel Lamb dances the night away with one of the younger members of the 5th Armored Brigade family.



Major Mosler and his wife Un Kyong take time from their dance to smile for the camera.



Command Sergeant Major Buchanan and his wife Adrienne show us that they still have their newlywed glow of love.





Members of the Logistics Support Battalion, LSBN, celebrated the holidays in style at the Fort Carson Golf Club on December 8th. Unit members enjoyed good food, a visit from Santa, fine fiddling, recognition and appreciation of the support of their families and of course, the awarding of the famed “Broken Sprocket” award.



A Time to Remember

By Sgt LaRay Demers , HHC, 5th Armored Brigade

Think back to a recent holiday party. What made it memorable? Was it the fun that you had with family and friends or the hours spent looking for the nearest escape route? Preventing a mass case of insomnia is the responsibility of any good party planner.

On December 6th, "Saint Nicholas Day", the men of 1-360th Infantry Regiment gathered with their families to accomplish one mission: a rekindling of Christmas spirit in the hearts of their children.

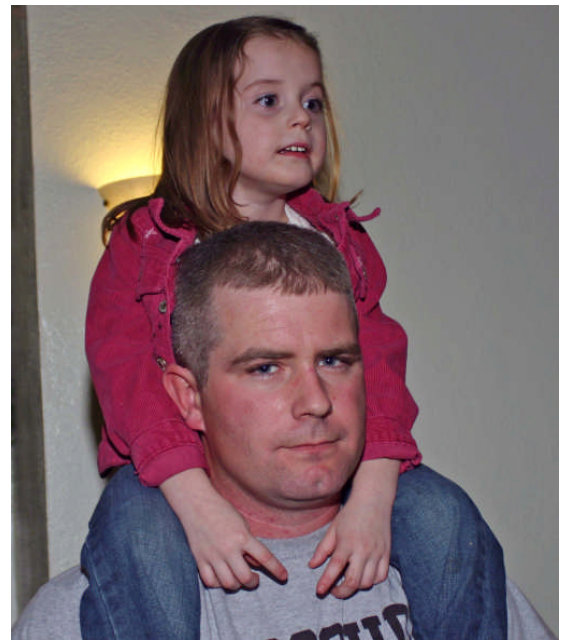
The success of this gathering was no small task and certainly did not occur overnight; it took a lot of late nights and much of the sanity of one man - SSG Kris Rainwater. The first step in this daunting task was to find a location that would contribute to holiday cheer. The historic Penrose house, at Turkey Creek Ranch, provided families with plenty of room and an environment that looked a lot less like the typical Army facility. Gloria "Mom" Martinez, a staff member at the Penrose house, truly catered to the needs of the unit. Without her assistance the gathering would not have been nearly as successful. The next step is near and dear to every Soldier's heart: Chow. SSG Rainwater turned to The Golden Coral to provide the holiday feast for two reasons: the quality of the food and the price of service.

One of the most challenging tasks: how to entertain a large group of small children. Magic of course! The kind of magic that is found in the caring heart of a magician who would not leave until every child who wanted a balloon animal had one. Of course what holiday party would be complete without the magic found in a jolly old man in a red suit who rode in on Turkey Creek's fire engine? Children were alerted to Santa's arrival by flashing lights and the engine's siren. Santa brought with him a bag of goodies for every boy and girl, tactfully provide by their parents to insure each child received a gift they would enjoy.

SSG Rainwater spent days scouring Colorado Springs looking for local businesses who would donate gifts for the adults as well. Each gift was raffled off and the lucky ticket holder walked happily away with their prize. The evening's phenomenal grand prize was a one night stay in the Honeymoon Suite, complete with Jacuzzi, generously donated by Traveling Tours and the Radisson Hotel, one of Colorado Springs' premier lodging locations. Other gifts included gift certificates to Wal-Mart, Radio Shack, hair salons, car detailing and King Soopers. The King Sooper's employees reached into their very own pockets to provide gift certificates to their store as a way to say thanks to the soldiers of Warhawg.

What really set this party apart from others was the massive participation given by the soldiers and families of this unit. The event was not the "mandatory fun" that most soldiers are accustomed to. Soldiers participated of their own free will. It was a gathering of individuals who put rank aside for an evening and formed personal relationships. Unlike so many other parties that we have all suffered through at one point in our lives, Warhawg was able to overcome the monotony of the typical holiday party and have a good time. LTC Burrer, the commander of Warhawg, said it best "The smiles on the faces of those kids...are memories that will last a life time." The only question left is, how do they top this?





The WarHawg Christmas festivities took place at Turkey Creek Ranch on December 6th. Unit members enjoyed a catered dinner, children's magician, a visit from Santa himself and a variety of generous raffles. Prizes for the raffles were donated by local businesses in support of the Soldiers.

